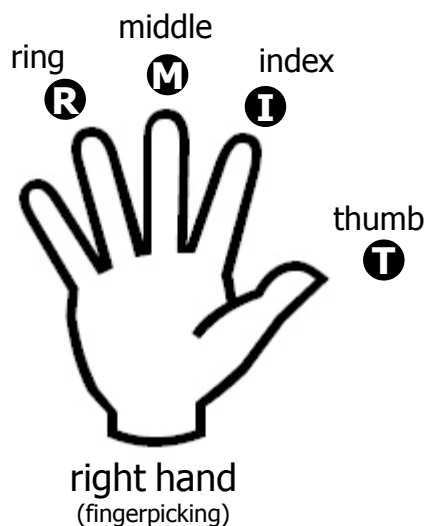
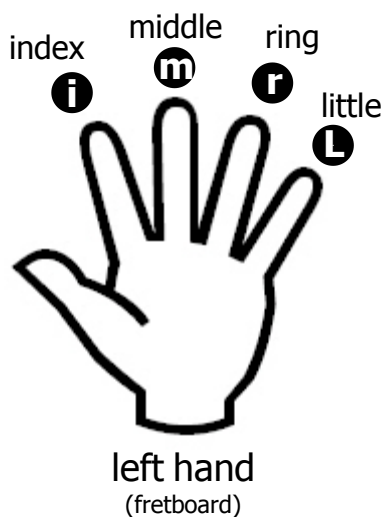


HOW TO PLAY BASIC FINGER PICKING



**The art of finger picking** is a lot more fiddly, but we are going to use the same learning techniques as chord playing.

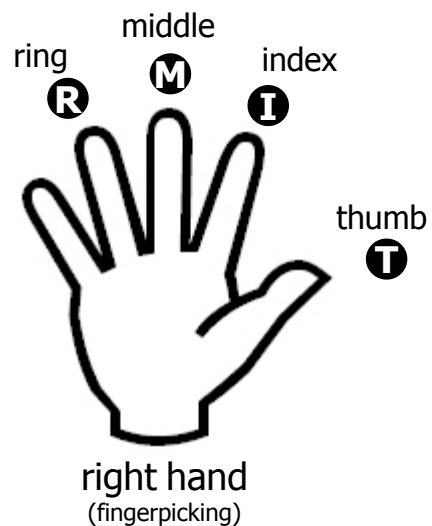
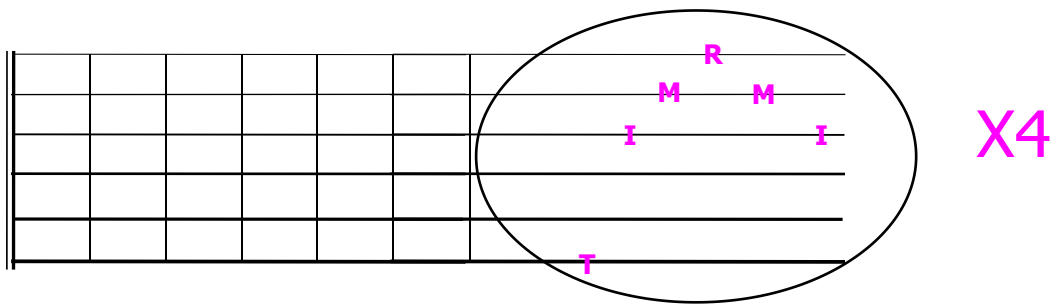
**As we focus on the right hand**, you just have to remember that for these basic steps the index, middle, and ring finger are looking after the last 3 strings (4th, 5th, and 6th from your face)

**The right hand thumb** follows the root note of the chord, (1st, 2nd, or 3rd string from your face) and is clearly marked with a **T**.

**Take your time on the next page.** Get comfortable with the skill of picking one string at a time. It will feel awkward at first, but keep at it and it will get smoother!

It's best to begin to learn finger-picking without the left hand so you can focus on the right hand fingers.

1. **Place the left hand** on the under body of the guitar where the neck meets the body of the guitar just to steady the instrument as you practice the right hand finger-picking technique.
2. **Thumb always follows the root note**, and is marked clearly on the chord diagrams below.
3. **Index, Middle, and Ring fingers** on your right hand always look after the last 3 strings from your face (4th, 5th, and 6th string from your face in that order).
4. **Finger-pick** the pattern four times.

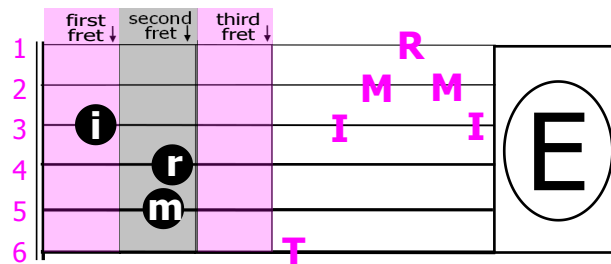


**toptip**

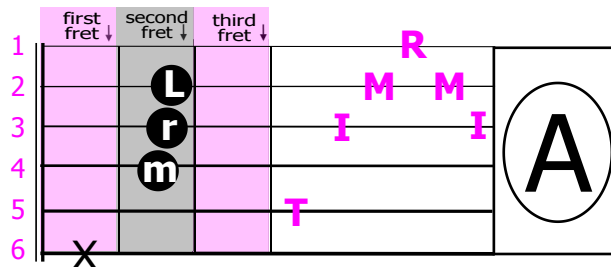
Keep the thumb straight  
Claw the right hand fingertips  
(so they point towards your right shoulder)

**STEP 1 : E and A (fp)**

- 1. Finger-pick** the chord of E twice.
- 2. Finger-pick** the chord of A twice.
- 3. Practice** the chords until you can finger-pick them both within the target time.  
(30 - 40 seconds)



X2



X2

BASIC FINGER-PICKING

**STEP 1 : E and A**

TT: 30 - 40s      BAT:40 - 50s

DATE:						
TIME:						

**STEP 2 : E, A, B7, E (fp)**

1. **Finger-pick** the chord of E playing the fp pattern twice.
2. **Finger-pick** the chord of A playing the fp pattern twice.
3. **Finger-pick** the chord of B7 playing the fp pattern twice.
4. **Finger-pick** the chord of E playing the fp pattern twice.
5. **Practice** the chords until you can finger-pick it all within the target time.  
(35 - 45 seconds)

first fret ↓	second fret ↓	third fret ↓			
i				R	E
	r			M M	
	m			I I	
			T		

X2

	L			R	A
	r			M M	
	m			I I	
X			T		

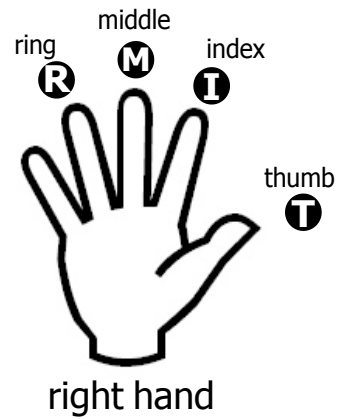
X2

	L			R	B <sub>7</sub>
	r			M M	
	m			I I	
X			T		

X2

	i			R	E
	r			M M	
	m			I I	
			T		

X2



BASIC FINGER-PICKING

**STEP 2 : E, A, B7, E**

TT: 35 - 45s BAT: 1.30 - 2.00s

DATE:						
TIME:						

**STEP 3 : E, A, B7, E / A, D, E, A (fp)**

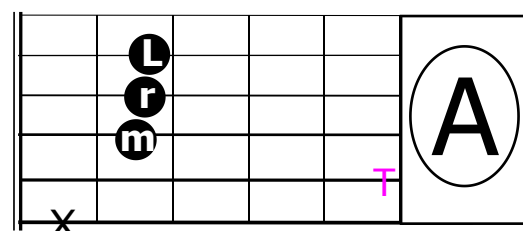
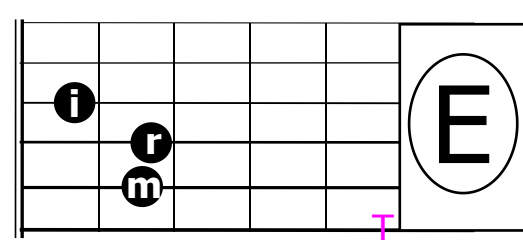
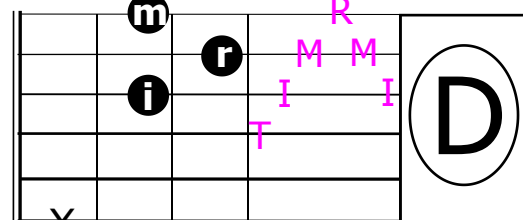
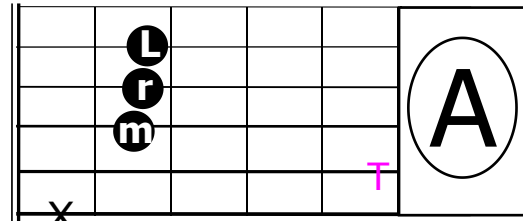
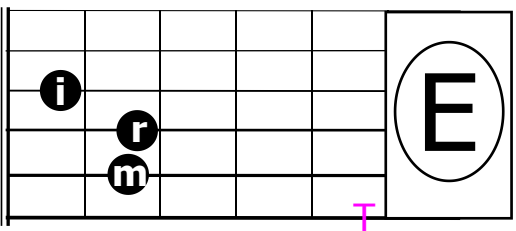
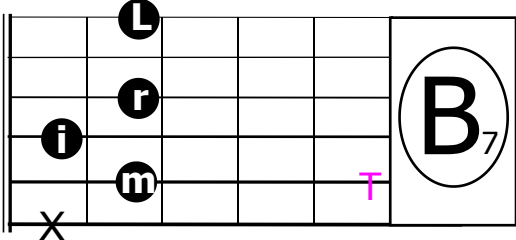
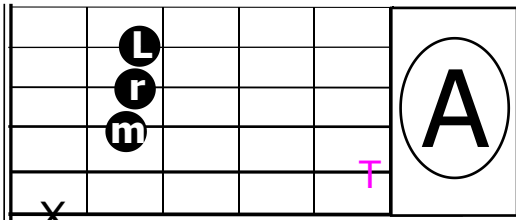
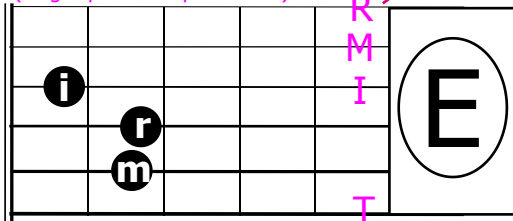
T I M R M I (X2)

- 1. Finger-pick** all 8 chords playing the fp pattern twice on each chord.
- 2. Practice** the chords until you can finger-pick it all within the target time.  
(45 - 55 seconds)

**Remember -**

**I M R** (right hand fingers) **always** look after the last 3 strings from your face!

(Finger-pick each pattern X2)



BASIC FINGER-PICKING

**STEP 3 : E, A, B7, E / A, D, E, A**

TT: 45 - 55s BAT: 1.30 - 2.00s

DATE:							
TIME:							

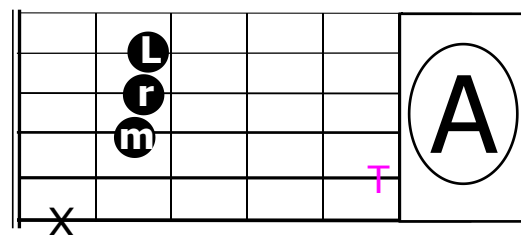
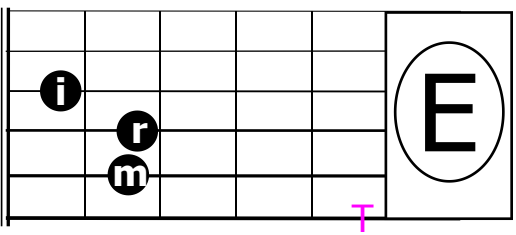
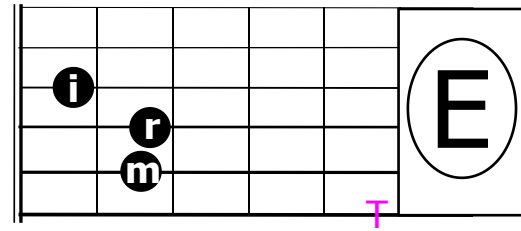
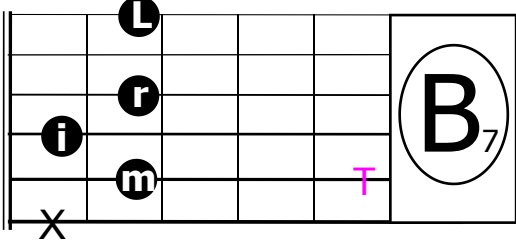
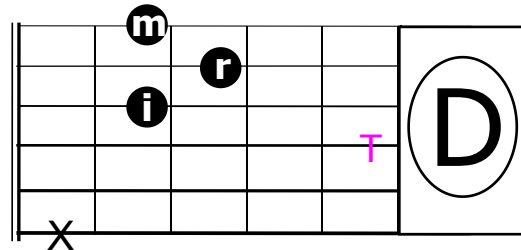
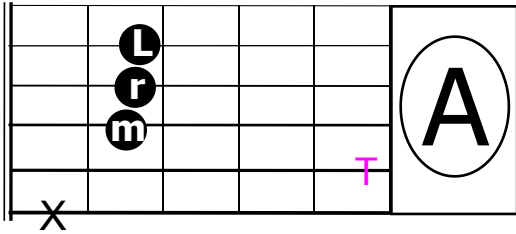
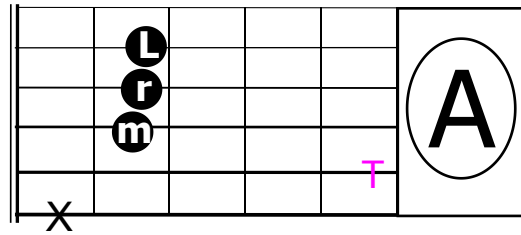
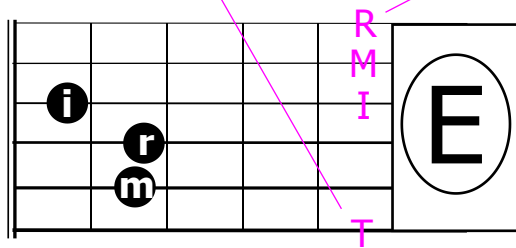
STEP 4 : 16 chord block (fp)

T I M R M I (X2)

1. Finger-pick the 16 chord block  
(playing the fp pattern twice on each chord)

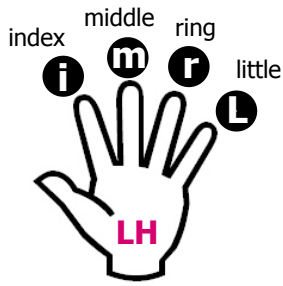
2. Practice the chords until you can finger-pick it all within the target time.  
(45 - 55 seconds)

(T = Right hand thumb root note - I M R always look after last 3 strings from your face!)



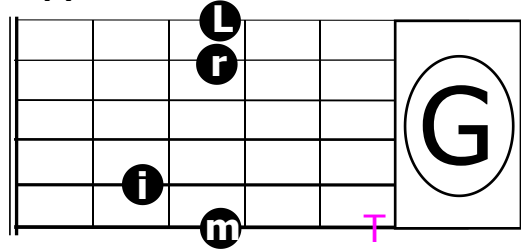
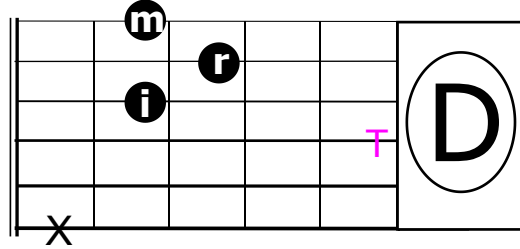
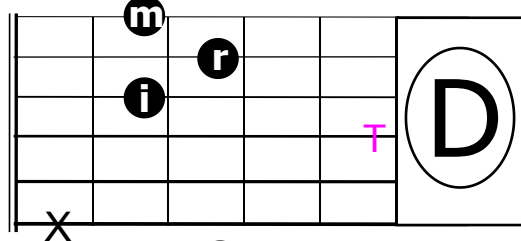
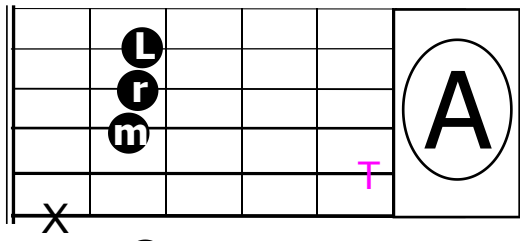
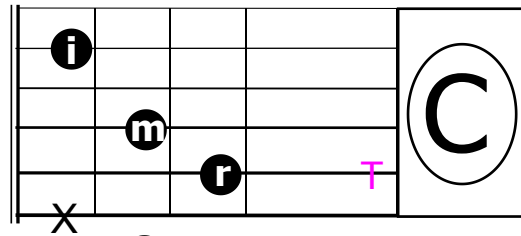
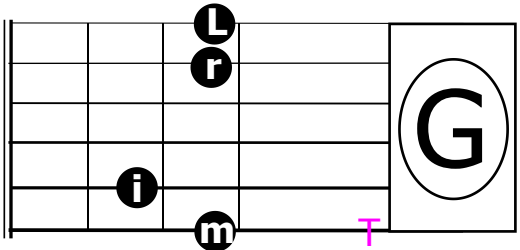
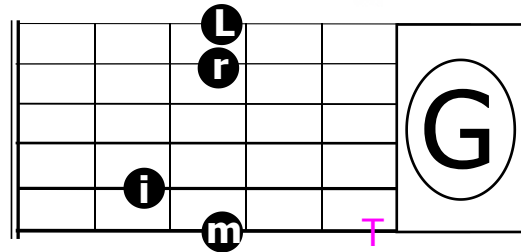
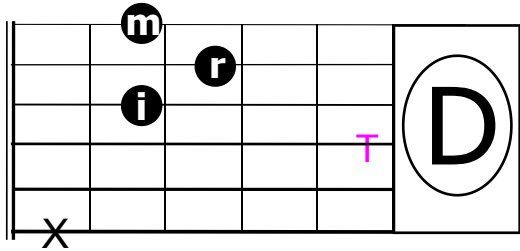
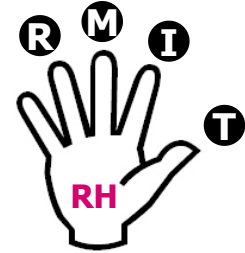
toptip

As you are finger-picking one chord, think about the shape of the next chord and which fingers you will move first. This will help you to move quickly and (eventually) in time.



(Index, Middle, Ring always look after last 3 strings from your face)

T I M R M I (X2)



BASIC FINGER-PICKING

STEP 4 : 16 Chord block (fp)

TT: 1.00 - 1.10s BAT: 2.00 - 2.30s

DATE:							
TIME:							

**STEP 5 : Advanced finger-picking patterns**

1. Once you can finger-pick these chords within the target time (45 - 55 seconds) use this page in your regular practice routine.
2. Stick to a slow steady rhythm and go through all chords using the first finger-picking pattern.
3. Repeat using the second finger-picking pattern, and so on.
4. The process of going through this regularly and consistently (ie everyday for a few weeks!) will **dramatically** increase your playing performance.

Finger-picking  
thumb root note



	1 (1st string from your face)	2	2	1
E	A	B7	E	
2	3	1	2	
A	D	E	A	
3	1	2	3	
D	G	A	D	
1	2	3	1	
G	C	D	G	

Advanced finger-picking patterns

1. T I <sup>M</sup> R <sup>M</sup> I (X2)	2. T I <sup>M/R*</sup> I (X2)	3. T I <sup>M</sup> R <sup>M</sup> (X2)	4. T I <sup>M</sup> R <sup>M</sup> M I M I
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**toptip** Finger-picking always feels fiddly and clumsy at the beginning. Like everything else the more you do it, the more your fingers will get used to it!

BASIC FINGER-PICKING

**STEP 5 : 16 Chord block (finger-picking) TT: 45 - 55s BAT: 1.30 - 2.00s**

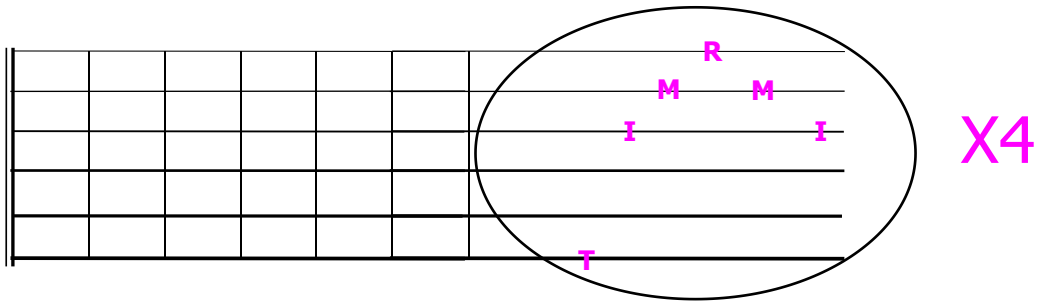
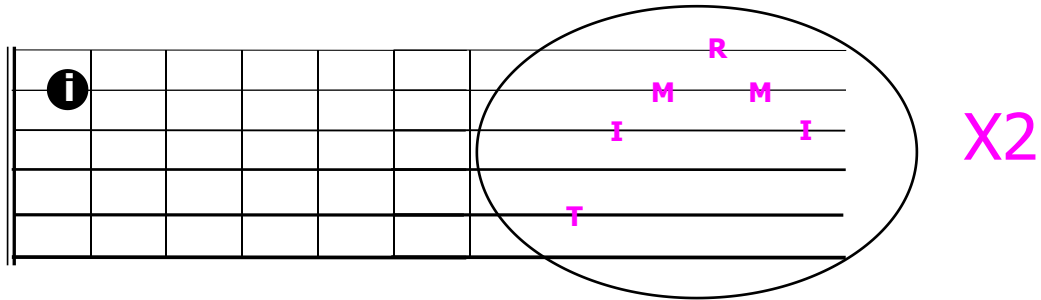
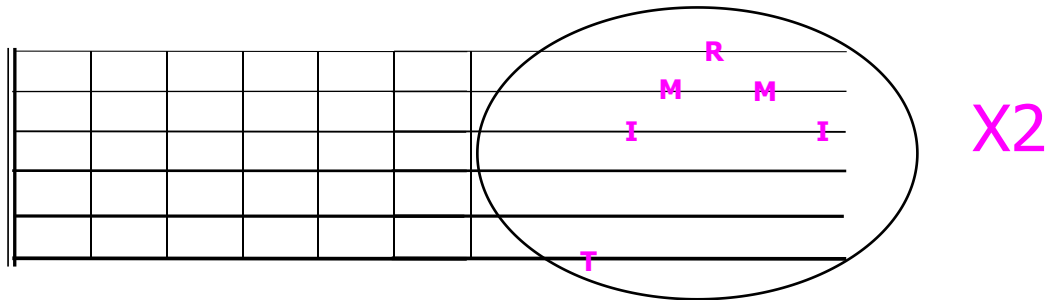
\*fp middle and ring together

DATE:							
TIME:							

STEP 6 : Song - 'Calm Seas'

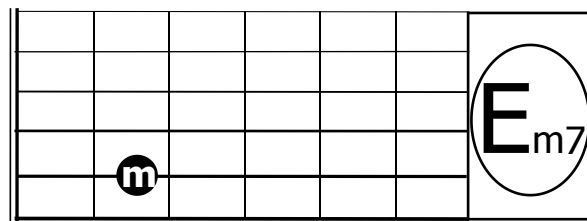
**Finger-pick the song** through slowly. Keep a steady rhythm.  
Work on changing from one chord to the next without pausing in between.

Right Hand  
R=ring  
M=middle  
I=index  
T=thumb

strum Em7 once to end slowly!

(hold for 6 seconds and damp softly with RH)



STEP 7 : 'Rising Dawn'

Right Hand  
 R=ring  
 M=middle  
 I=index  
 T=thumb

D2

X2

A2

X2

G2

X2

A2

X2

D2

X2

strum D once to end  
slowly!

(hold for 6 seconds and damp softly with RH)

